

Message Text

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ACTION EA-07

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7452

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 72014

LIMDIS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RP, CH, TW, UR

SUBJECT: PHILIPPINE RELATIONS WITH CHINA

REF: MANILA 11946

1. AS ANTICIPATED REFTTEL (NOTAL) I WAS ASKED TO THE PALACE MORNING OCTOBER 7 IN ORDER TO RECEIVE OFFICIAL INFORMATION FROM PRESIDENT MARCOS OF PHILIPPINE DECISION TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH PEKING AND MOSCOW. ALSO PRESENT WERE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE PONCE-ENRILE, ACTING SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS COLLANTES AND SECRETARY OF INFORMATION TATAD. DURING THE COURSE OF OUR MEETING, WHICH LASTED NINETY MINUTES, WE WERE JOINED FOR ABOUT THIRTY MINUTES BY MRS. MARCOS, WHO GAVE ME ACCOUNT OF HER VARIOUS IMPRESSIONS OF

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HER RECENT CHINA TRIP.

2. BULK OF DISCUSSION CONCERNED CHINA. MARCOS SAID HE WISHED REASSURE U.S. THAT THERE WOULD BE NO RPT NO CHANGE IN PHIL RELATIONS WITH U.S. DESPITE NORMALIZATION. HE ALSO ASKED THAT WE CONTINUE TO MONITOR RP-PRC RAPPROCHEMENT CLOSELY AND NOTIFY HIM IMMEDIATELY IF WE FEEL OUR INTERESTS ARE ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY EVENTS.

3. MARCOS THEN WENT ON TO DISCUSS HIS PRIME CONCERNS, WHICH WERE (A) RELATIONS WITH TAIPEI, (B) CITIZENSHIP, AND (C) SUPPORT FOR MAOIST SUBVERSIVES. HE SAID CHINESE WERE INSISTING ON CANADIAN FORMULA FOR HANDLING TAIPEI. ON CITIZENSHIP, CHOU TOLD MRS. MARCOS THEY WOULD INSIST ON MALAYSIAN FORMULA. ON SUBVERSIVES, CHOU AND MAO BOTH TOLD MRS. MARCOS CHINA "WILL NOT INTERFERE IN PHIL DOMESTIC MATTERS."

4. NONE OF THESE POINTS FULLY SATISFIED MARCOS, AND HE THEREFORE INTENDED SEEK FURTHER CLARIFICATION IN AN OFFICIAL MISSION, WHICH WILL VISIT CHINA IN LAST WEEK OCTOBER. MISSION WILL BE HEADED BY SEVERTARY OF INDUSTRIES PATERNO AND WILL INCLUDE "SENIOR OFFICIAL" FROM FOREIGN AFFAIRS. WHILE PRIME PURPOSE WILL BE TO WORK OUT TRADE AGREEMENT, DISCUSSIONS WILL ALSO TAKE PLACE ON NORMALIZATION.

5. MARCOS SAID HE WOULD PROPOSE THAT RELATIONS BE ORIGINALLY ESTABLISHED ON BASIS NON-RESIDENT AMBASSADORS, BUT HE DOUBTED PEKING WOULD ACCEPT THIS. HE SAID HE WOULD INTRODUCE CERTAIN OTHER CONDITIONS OF THIS TYPE IN ORDER PROVIDE SOME TIME FOR WORKING OUT RELATIONS WITH TAIPEI. NEW AMBASSADOR TO TAIPEI WILL DEPART FOR HIS POST OCTOBER 12, AND MARCOS WISHED RECEIVE HIS REPORTS PRIOR TO DETERMINING HIS SUBSEQUENT SCHEDULE.

6. ON SOVIET UNION, MARCOS SAID DISCUSSIONS WERE STILL CENTERED ON TRADE AGREEMENT AND TRADE MISSION. HE HAS SUGGESTED TO MOSCOW THAT SOVIETS SEND AN OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE TO MANILA TO DISCUSS WHAT NEXT MOVE SHOULD BE. IT WAS CLEAR THAT MOSCOW IS DECIDELY A DISTANT SECOND IN CURRENT PHILIPPINE DECISIONS ABOUT NORMALIZATION.
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7. STORY WHICH I RECEIVED FROM MRS. MARCOS ABOUT HER TRIP TO CHINA WAS LARGELY PERSONALIZED ELABORATION OF ALL THAT HAS APPEARED IN PRESS. IT IS CLEAR THAT SHE WAS OBJECT OF A VERY PROFESSIONAL SNOW-JOB AND THAT SHE HAS BEEN VIVIDLY IMPRESSED BY IT. SHE WAS FASCINATED BY CHIANG CHING AND IS INCLINED TO SOMEWHAT EXAGGERATED VIEW OF LATTER'S INFLUENCE. HER VISION OF CHINA IS THAT "CHOU AND THE OLD

BUREAUCRATS" CONTROL THE GOVERNMENTAL APPARATUS IN PEKING, BUT THAT CHIANG CHING HAS CAPTURED EVERYTHING OUTSIDE THE CAPITAL.

8. SHE THOUGHT CHO EN-LAI LOOKED EXTREMELY FEEBLE AND OPINED THAT HE WOULD DISAPPEAR BEFORE MAO, WHO LOOKED DECREPIT BUT SEEMED MORE HEALTHY THAN CHOU. SHE MET AND SPENT CONSIDERABLE TIME WITH MANY OF THE TOP POLITBURO MEMBERS, AS WELL AS A GOOD SPRINKLING OF FOREIGN OFFICE TYPES.

9. SHE FOUND THEIR DETAILED KNOWLEDGE OF PHILIPPINES "FRIGHTENING." SHE ALSO FOUND THEIR MASSIVE POPULAR DISCIPLINE AND THE "THREE GENERATIONS OF INDOCTRINATION" SIMILARLY "FRIGHTENING." THEY WERE OUTSPOKEN IN THEIR BLUNT CRITICISM OF SOVIETS, BUT SOMEWHAT CONDESCENDING TOWARDS UNITED STATES. CHIANG CHING (WHO CURRENTLY PREFERS TO BE CALLED MME. MAO) WAS WARM IN HER PRAISE OF EX-PRESIDENT NIXON AND SAID "WATERGATE WAS GONE WITH THE WIND."

10. I ENDED INTERVIEW BY ASSURING MARCOS THAT WE EXPECTED U.S.-PHIL RELATIONS TO REMAIN UNCHANGED BY THESE DEVELOPMENTS, THAT WE SYMPATHIZED WITH PHIL EFFORTS TO WORK OUT THEIR RELATIONS WITH PEKING AND MOSCOW, AND THAT WE WISHED THEM GOOD LUCK IN THEIR ENDEAVORS.
SULLIVAN

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